

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Original claims 1-24 were canceled and new claims 25-50 were substituted in the Preliminary Amendment filed August 8, 2005.

Claims 1-24 (cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) Microcrystalline paraffin ~~as solid product~~, prepared by a  $\beta$ -zeolite based catalytic hydroisomerization of FT paraffins having a carbon chain length distribution in the range from 20 to 105 at temperatures above 200°C.

26. (previously presented) Microcrystalline paraffin according to claim 25, wherein, at 25°C the paraffin is not liquid but at least paste-like to solid with a needle penetration value of less than  $100 \times 10^{-1}$  mm, measured in accordance with DIN 51579.

27. (previously presented) Microcrystalline paraffin according to claim 25, wherein the paraffin is free of aromatic and heterocyclic compounds.

28. (previously presented) Microcrystalline paraffin according to claim 25, wherein the paraffin is free of naphthenes.

29. (previously presented) Microcrystalline paraffin according to claim 25, having a proportion by weight of isoalkanes that is greater than that of n-alkanes in the paraffin.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) Process for preparing a microcrystalline paraffin; in particular a microcrystalline paraffin according to claim 25, by catalytic hydroisomerization by steps of:

A. use of FT paraffins as starting material, having carbon atoms in the range from 20 to 105; and

B. use of a catalyst based on a  $\beta$ -zeolite;

C. use of a process temperature above 200°C; and

D. action of pressure in the presence of hydrogen.

32. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 31, wherein the catalyst is based on a zeolite, preferably a  $\beta$ -zeolite, having has a pore size between 0.50 and 0.80 nm as support material and a metal of transition group 8 as active component.

33. (previously presented) Process according to claim 31, wherein the process is carried out at elevated pressure and elevated temperature.

34. (previously presented) Process according to claim 33, wherein the elevated temperature is a process temperature from 200 to 270°C.

35. (previously presented) Process according to claim 33, wherein the pressure is 2 to 20 Mpa.

36. (previously presented) Process according to claim 33, wherein the pressure is 3 to 8 Mpa.

37. (previously presented) Process according to claim 33, wherein the elevated temperature is a process temperature of 230 to 270°C.

38. (previously presented) Process according to claim 31, comprising a step of feeding hydrogen to the paraffin, characterized by a feed ratio of hydrogen to FT paraffin from 100:1 to 2000:1 standard m<sup>3</sup> per m<sup>3</sup>.

39. (previously presented) Process according to claim 31, comprising a step of feeding hydrogen to the paraffin, characterized by a feed ratio of hydrogen to FT paraffin from 250:1 to 600:1 standard m<sup>3</sup> per m<sup>3</sup>.

40. (Currently Amended) Process according claim 31, wherein the process is carried out at a loading from 0.1 to 2.0 v/vh, preferably 0.2 to 0.8 v/vh.

41. (previously presented) Process according to claim 31, wherein the catalyst has a pore size between 0.55 to 0.76 nm.

42. (previously presented) Process according to claim 41, wherein the catalyst comprises a hydrogenation metal component of transition group VIII of the Periodic Table.

43. (previously presented) Process according to claim 42, wherein the catalyst comprises platinum as hydrogenation metal.

44. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 43, wherein the platinum content of the catalyst is 0.1 to 2.0% by mass, preferably 0.4 to 1.0% by mass; based on a catalyst fired at 800°C.

45. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 31, wherein the FT paraffin paraffins have is used in a solidification point range from 70 to 105°C, preferably with solidification points of 70, 80, 95 or 105°C.

46. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 31, wherein the microcrystalline paraffins are prepared from the FT paraffins in a single process step, optionally additionally with removal of the short-chain constituents.

Claims 47-50 (Cancelled)

51. (New) Process according claim 31, wherein the process is carried out at a loading from 0.2 to 0.8 v/vh.

52. (New) Process according to claim 43, wherein the platinum content of the catalyst is 0.4 to 1.0% by mass, based on a catalyst fired at 800°C.

53. (New) Process according to claim 45, wherein the FT paraffins have solidification points of 70, 80, 95 or 105°C.